

ciple by which the organized people of America said they must fight the autocrat who would sweep the world and bend it to his will (Applause).

I know that the Irish have that spirit also and I know that it must be true when they say, as Arthur Griffiths said in Albert Hall in London, before ten thousand people inside and twenty thousand outside, that volunteer army was Irish and it was there to stay; if it was obliterated two hundred thousand more would take its place, and two hundred thousand more would replace them (Applause). No Government is worthy of the name and no people are worthy of freedom who are not willing to die for it.

A few weeks ago a gentleman—I would not wish to say anything disrespectful, but his greatest claim to fame is that he married one of the daughters of a great American multi-millionaire—Lord Decies was official censor; it was his duty not to let anyone know anything about Ireland. As he came off the boat in New York he gave an interview—as is the custom of diplomats—and in his talk about Ireland he said "There is not a day but they are shooting down unarmed British soldiers on the streets and highways in Ireland." A witty Irishman remarked: "Faith they are not unarmed when they come there" (Laughter). It may be worthy of observation that perhaps the Irish volunteers Army to-day is the only large army great enough to operate in a major way in their own country, whose arms almost entirely consist of the arms they took away from the invading army. (Laughter and applause).

We Americans and Canadians are so close, at least to the theory if not the principle, of representative government and individual freedom that it is beyond our ken to understand the situation in Ireland. A man is but the unit of the State or Nation. I see no difference—and I don't believe you do—from the standpoint of morals, between a wrongful act committed by a nation and one committed by a man.

There is something deep in metaphysics that is expressed by the situation in Ireland. No Army ever operated without a commander-in-chief, and they have their commander-in-chief. Here is a country that has set up a Republic with a legislative body and a President. There we have the situation of Government centralized as clearly as it is in Canada or in the United States. If there is something wrong, potentially and morally, about that endeavor being made; if, as some of the press of North America would have you believe, these men are not patriots and statesmen, but conspirators and malefactors, that these men fighting in the Volunteer Army are not like the forerunners of the American Army that soaked the streets of New York and Boston with their blood, then the most powerful government on the earth, with the largest navy, with a seasoned army, could proceed to the very heart of that government; could take the chief army, and execute the President—but they dare not do it because the people have spoken, and that government is going on. The greatest crime in the world would be to seize the representatives of the Government of Canada or the President of